

Ndau dialect

Ndau (also called **chiNdau**, **Chindau**, **Ndzawu**, **Njao**, **Sofala**, **Southeast Shona**, **Chidanda**) is a Bantu language spoken by 1,400,000 people in central Mozambique and southeastern Zimbabwe.^[4] The major varieties in Mozambique are called Shanga and Danda; that in Zimbabwe is simply called Ndau or Ndaundau.

Ndau is part of a continuum with other neighboring varieties of the Shona group (e.g. Manyika, Karanga) and has often been included as a Shona dialect. The 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe accorded Ndau status as an official language.

At least some speakers have a bilabial nasal click where neighboring dialects have /mw/, as in *mwana* 'child'.^{[5][6]}

Sample text

The mutual intelligibility of Ndau with other Shona varieties is fairly high, but some speakers of other Shona varieties may find it difficult to understand. Differences and similarities can be measured by examining a Ndau version of Lord's Prayer:

Baba edu ari mudenga, ngariremeredzwe zina renyu. UMambo hwenyu ngahuuye. Kuda kwenyu ngakuitwa munyika kudai ngomudenga. Tipei nege kurya kwedu kwatinotama nyamashi. Tirekererei ndaa dzedu kudai tisu takarekerera avo vane ndaa kwetiri. Usatipinza mukuedzwa, asi tinunure kuno uwo wakashata.

The equivalent paragraph in Standard Shona (mainly based on Zezuru) is:

Baba vedu vari kudenga, zita renyu ngarikudziwe. UMambo hwenyu ngahwuuye. Kuda kwenyu ngakuitwe pasi sokudenga. Tipei nhasi kudya kwedu kwakwezuva. Tiregererei zvatinokutadzirai sekuregerera kwatinoita vakatitadzira. Musatipinze mukuedzwa, asi mutinunure mune zvakaipa.

| Ndau | |
|----------------------|---|
| Region | Mozambique, Zimbabwe |
| Native speakers | 2.4 million (2000–2006) ^[1] |
| Language family | Niger–Congo <ul style="list-style-type: none">Atlantic–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Benue–Congo<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern Bantoid<ul style="list-style-type: none">Bantu<ul style="list-style-type: none">Shona (S.10)<ul style="list-style-type: none">Ndau |
| Official status | |
| Official language in | Zimbabwe |
| Language codes | |
| ISO 639-3 | ndc |
| Glottolog | ndau1241 (http://glottolog.org/resource/language/id/ndau1241) ^[2] |
| Guthrie code | S.15 ^[3] |

Alphabet

While the mainstream Shona language excludes L, Q and X from its alphabet, Ndau orthography uses them as shown by the examples below:

- Mainstream Shona "*Akatizira* and the Ndau version *Akafohla*: 'L' is used in the digraph *hl* for the sound [ɬ].
- Mainstream Shona "*kuridza tsamwa* and the Ndau version *kuxapa*: 'X' is used for the click consonant [ɓ].

3. Mainstream Shona "*Kurara* and the Ndau version *Kuqambaya*: 'Q' is used for the click consonant [!].

These sounds have been acquired from neighboring Nguni languages.

References

1. Ndau (<https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/ndc/>) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Ndau" (<http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/ndau1241>). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Jouni Filip Maho, 2009. New Updated Guthrie List Online (<https://web.archive.org/web/20180203191542/http://goto.glocalnet.net/mahopapers/nuglonline.pdf>)
4. "Ethnologue 2017: Ndau" (<https://www.ethnologue.com/language/ndc>). Retrieved 2017-03-06.
5. Norval Smith, Harry van der Hulst, 1988. *Features, Segmental Structure & Harmony Processes*, vol. 1, p. 198
6. Daniel Jones, 1911. *The pronunciation and orthography of the Chindau language*.^[1] (https://openlibrary.org/books/OL6457080M/The_pronunciation_and_orthography_of_the_Chindau_language.)

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